



WEEK 3

ELEMENTARY LESSON OUTLINE

THE GREAT ESCAPE

BIG IDEA

God can do anything.

THE BIBLE

The Plagues and the Passover: Exodus 7:14-12:30 (1 Corinthians 5:7b, Ezekiel 36:26, Jeremiah 32:27)

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

LARGE GROUP TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | Puzzle #1 - Bucket O' Plagues
- **ACTIVITY** | Puzzle #2 - Locked Up Plagues
- **ACTIVITY** | Puzzle #3 - The Big Idea
- **THE BIG IDEA** | God can do anything.
- **BIBLE STORY** | Exodus 7:14 - 12:30
- **ACTIVITY** | Pharaoh, May I?
- **POLL** | Rank the Plagues
- **SCRIPTURE** | 1 Corinthians 5:7b
- **VIDEO** | The Passover and Jesus
- **OBJECT LESSON** | Rock and Sponge
- **SCRIPTURE** | Ezekiel 36:26
- **MUSIC** | Worship
- **REFLECTION** | Thank You, Jesus
- **MEMORY VERSES** | Colossians 3:20; Psalm 46:10

SMALL GROUP TIME

- **DISCUSSION**
 - How many of the plagues can you remember?
 - What instructions did God give the Israelites to be protected during the final plague?
 - What did Pharaoh do after the plague on the firstborn?
 - How does the Passover demonstrate what Jesus would do for us?
 - What great things has God done in your life?
- **SCRIPTURE** | Jeremiah 32:27
- **ACTIVITY** | Door Frame Markings
- **MEMORY VERSES** | Colossians 3:20; Psalm 46:10



WEEK 3

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

THE GREAT ESCAPE

BIG IDEA

God can do anything.

THE BIBLE

The Plagues and the Passover: Exodus 7:14-12:30 (1 Corinthians 5:7b, Ezekiel 36:26, Jeremiah 32:27)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

ACTIVITY | Puzzle #1 – Buckets of Plagues

- Welcome back! We're on week three of our series, *The Great Escape!* Are you ready to attempt the third step of your escape from Egypt?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare three buckets for each group. Put a key in the bottom of each one, but only one of the keys goes to a real lock in your room. One bucket will have red Jell-O and some water (labeled "Blood"), one will be filled with raisins and some water (labeled "Flies"), and one will be filled with ice (labeled "Hail"). Kids will reach into each bucket to find a key, then move to Puzzle #2.

ACTIVITY | Puzzle #2 – Locked Up Plagues

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Kids will determine which of their three keys fits the lock on a box. Inside the box, kids will find ten pictures that represent the ten plagues (use the *Ten Plagues printable*), a Bible with Exodus 7 and 8 marked with a bookmark or pieces of paper with Exodus 7 and 8 on it, and a UV flashlight. Kids will look up Exodus 7 and 8 and use the Bible passage to put the ten plagues in order.

ACTIVITY | Puzzle #3 - The Big Idea

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before the service, write with a black light pen the Big Idea on the back of the first four plague cards. On the back of the first plague card, write "God." On the second plague card, write "can." On the third plague card, write "do." Finally, on the fourth plague card, write "anything." You will

not write on the back of the remaining six cards. Kids will have to figure out that they need to turn over the plague cards (in order) and use the UV flashlight to read the words written on them. When they read the words, they will discover the Big Idea.

- You've found the third Big Idea! At this rate, it won't be long until you can escape from Egypt. Today, we'll find out what happened when Moses asked Pharaoh to let the people go.

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

THE BIG IDEA | God can do anything.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Each week, do a big reveal (and make it fun) when you announce the Big Idea, like:
 - Ask the kids to give you a drumroll by stomping their feet or patting their laps.
 - Shout the Big Idea, then point to the kids and have them shout it back (Change it up by using funny voices, different volumes, or inflections).
 - Have a character (either recurring or rotating) come out every week to reveal the Big Idea.
 - Write it on a piece of paper and hide it somewhere in the room. Have the kids go on a "hunt" for it. When it's found, ask someone to come up and read it.
- **FOR PRETEENS:** See your weekly instructions for some fun ideas to let your preteens discover each week's Big Idea with an escape room theme.
- This week's Big Idea: **God can do anything.**

BIBLE STORY | Exodus 7:14-12:30

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the story in your Bible and encourage the kids to do the same. Read it!
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** Use the Rank the Plagues printable. Print and cut out the pictures of the plagues, and show them to your kids with special needs during the Bible story. Be prepared to describe and explain each plague if they want more details about them.
- The Israelites had been slaves in Egypt for hundreds of years. They were treated badly, and it was time for them to escape. But the Egyptian ruler, Pharaoh, was determined not to let them leave Egypt, so God sent ten plagues to change his mind.
- **What was the first plague?** The river turned to blood.
- **What happened with the plagues of frogs, gnats, and flies?** They each came and infested the place where the Egyptians lived. **Would that drive you crazy to have frogs, gnats, or flies infesting your space?** It would be pretty irritating!
- **In the fifth plague, what happened to the livestock?** Only the animals that belonged to the Egyptians died; the animals that belonged to the Israelites were fine.
- **What happened to the people's skin in the sixth plague?** They got boils, which are big, painful bumps on their skin. The other plagues were just as bad; a huge hail storm, big bugs called locusts, and complete darkness.
- The Egyptians had not treated the Israelites well. They made them work really hard and were mean to them. All of these awful things had to happen to the Egyptians to convince Pharaoh to set the Israelites free.
- Then there was one last plague that was the worst of all. The angel of death came and took the lives of all the first born sons of the Egyptians, including the son of Pharaoh. **How were the Israelites protected during the last plague?** They painted the blood of a perfect lamb over their doorframes

and death passed over their houses.

- Let's read Exodus 9:15-16 again. **Why do you think God sent the plagues instead of just destroying the Egyptians?**
- The plagues were about more than just punishing the Egyptians and freeing the Israelites. God wanted everyone to see His power.
- **What do you think it would have been like to live in Egypt during this time?**
- **How did the plagues show God could do anything?**
- **What are some situations we might face where we need to be reminded God can do anything?**
- Whatever we face in life, we can trust that God is bigger. There is nothing He can't do. Most importantly, He can and will do anything to show people who He is.

ACTIVITY | Pharaoh, May I?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *This game is similar to the classic, "Mother May I," but with a twist. Have an older kid or a leader represent Moses and stand on one side of the room. The kids should stand on the other side. "Moses" will choose one player from the other side and shout, "Will you let my people go?" and that player will say, "No." Then "Moses" will give directions based on one of the first nine plagues. Play until one of the kids reaches Moses.*
- *You can use the following actions . . .*
 - *Swim in the river*
 - *Hop like a frog*
 - *Fly like a gnat*
 - *Buzz like a fly*
 - *Walk like a cow, then fall to the ground*
 - *Walk while itching*
 - *Walk while dodging hail*
 - *Walk close to the ground like a locust*
 - *Walk with eyes closed*

POLL | Rank the Plagues

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Use the Ten Plagues printable or write signs with the name or picture of each plague. Post them on the wall in order. Give each kid ten small sticky notes and have them label their sticky notes from 1-10. Have them put their "1" note on the plague poster that they think would be the worst. They will put their "2" on the one they think would be second worst and continue all the way to ten.*
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** *Print the pictures of each plague and let them color them and put them in order. Talk about each one and ask them how they would feel if they experienced it.*
- **What would it be like to have all of these plagues happen within a few days of each other?**
- **Why do you think Pharaoh refused to let the people go, even after each of these things?**
- **What does this Bible story show us about God's power?**
- The last plague showed us just how powerful God is, which is important for us to remember today.

NOW WHAT? *What does God want us to do about it?*

SCRIPTURE | 1 Corinthians 5:7b

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Look up the verse and have the kids look it up. Read it!*
- A few months ago, in our series, *Clue*, we talked about the special meal Jesus shared with His disciples called Passover. Today, we read from the Bible about where the Passover started. The last plague ended with the Israelites sacrificing the lamb and painting its blood on their doors, which saved their firstborn sons from death. When death passed over their houses, that was the first Passover. God's people celebrated the Passover with a special meal for many years after that.
- How is Jesus like the Passover lamb?
- Jesus was perfect. He never sinned. He died for our sins. Just like the blood of the lamb saved the Israelites, God's sacrifice saves us so we can have a relationship with God and go to heaven forever someday.

VIDEO | The Passover and Jesus

- The last plague, the death of the firstborn, was the worst of all, but the way God protected the Israelites pointed people to what His own Son would one day do.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Watch [this](#) video. For a quick version, show 3.26 until 3.52.*
- **How did God rescue the Israelites? How does Jesus rescue us?** God sent Jesus to rescue us from the consequences of our sins. We can be forgiven and have a relationship with God through Jesus and one day, spend forever with God in heaven. That's amazing news!

OBJECT LESSON | Rock and Sponge

- The Bible tells us Pharaoh's heart was hardened. Let's talk about what that means.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Show the kids a rock and a sponge. Dip both into a bucket of water, demonstrating that the sponge absorbs the water and the rock does not.*
- Let's pretend the water represents God's truth.
- **If this rock represents our heart, is it affected by God's truth?**
- **What happens with the sponge?**
- The sponge is changed. It absorbs God's truth. When we have a soft heart, we are able to soak up God's truth and be changed.
- **Was Pharaoh's heart like the rock or the sponge? Do you think your heart is more hard or more soft toward God?**

SCRIPTURE | Ezekiel 36:26

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Look up the verse and have the kids look it up. Read it!*
- **What can we do if our hearts are hard like the stone?** We can ask God to help us.
- God can do anything. He produced powerful plagues to punish Egypt. He sent Jesus to take away the sins of the world. He can give us soft hearts and fill us with His love. We can pray and ask God to help our hearts, then our hearts will be like the sponge, filled with God's love.

MUSIC | Worship

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You can sing any songs you'd like, but for this lesson we like, "Pharaoh, Pharaoh" and "Great Big God" by Summit Creative Company.
- **FOR PRETEENS:** For preteens and this lesson, we like the [song](#), "Nothing is Impossible" by Planetshakers and the [song](#), "No One Greater." Lyric videos are a great, simple tool to use with worship with preteens.
- While we're worshipping, let's praise God because He can do amazing things in our lives!

REFLECTION | Thank You, Jesus

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Roll out a large piece of white craft paper. Provide paintbrushes and red watercolor paint. Play quiet, reflective music and ask kids to think about what God has done for them. Remind them God can do anything, including make a way for us to spend forever with Him. After a time of prayer, encourage them to use paintbrushes to paint, "Thank you, Jesus" or draw a picture related to what they have been praying about on the large piece of white paper. You can do this with crayons and white craft paper instead of paint.
- **FOR PRETEENS:** Use sticky notes for a cool, artistic project that will be a mosaic preteens can create using things God has done. See your weekly instructions for details.
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** Painting and using art to demonstrate their feelings can be a powerful way for kids with special needs to express themselves. They may not be able to think abstractly and reflectively, but they can use paint and art supplies to make creative pictures.

MEMORY VERSES | Colossians 3:20, Psalm 46:10

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give every kid memory verse magnets or stickers. Then, work on the memory verse together. For ideas on how to do this well, check out the Memory Verse Guide in your Programming folder and give them to your small group leaders, if you'd like.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **How many of the plagues can you remember?**
- **What instructions did God give the Israelites to be protected during the final plague?** (Kill a perfect lamb, paint its blood on doorframes.)
- **What did Pharaoh do after the plague of the firstborn?** (Let the Israelites go.)
- **How does the Passover demonstrate what Jesus did for us?**
- **What would you say if someone said God isn't very powerful?**
- **What great things has God done in your life?**

SCRIPTURE | Jeremiah 32:27

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the verse in your Bible and encourage the kids to do the same. Read it!
- **How does this verse remind you of what we heard about today?**
- **What does this verse tell us about God?**

ACTIVITY | Door Frame Markings

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give the kids the Door Frame Markings printables and red crayons, markers or paint. Let them color red above the door frames.
- **What did the red blood represent to the Israelites?**
- **How did God show He was with the Israelites during the Passover?**
- **How do we still remember this event today?**

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